



# FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

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## SEXY, CONFIDENT, COLOR DRIVEN

### Women's Spring 2000 Designer Focus

The New York Spring 2000 season can be summarized in four words: sexy, confident, color driven. A strong color palette dominated the New York runways. Hair, makeup and accessories very effectively accentuated the season's upbeat mood. Hair was styled to appear tousled with an emphasis on texture. Skin glowed with good health, and eyelids had a pearlized shimmer, with bright color reserved for lips. Accessories such as Fred Leighton diamonds at Badgley Mischka, and pastel colored multiple strand necklaces at Michael Kors all contributed to the carefree, pretty

look that dominated the New York Spring collections.

**BILL BLASS** showed a remarkable collection filled with fabulous separates that were the last word in refined chic. The wonder of Blass' talent is that his women never look as if they're trying too hard; there's always an insouciant ease to his collections. For day, there were plenty of pants, skirts, and dresses from which to choose. Color was everywhere, especially fuchsia, but Blass didn't just dwell on pink. He

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## PLAIN & FANCY Women's Runway Roundup

Two distinct trends emerged on the runways. The first placed an emphasis on architectural, structured silhouettes devoid of frills, and the other focused on pretty embellished clothes, often with an Indian/Moroccan slant.

**GHOST**, long known for feminine styling, presented a strong collection with gypsy influenced embroidered georgette dresses in lovely shades of sea blue, silver sage, pale mint, and

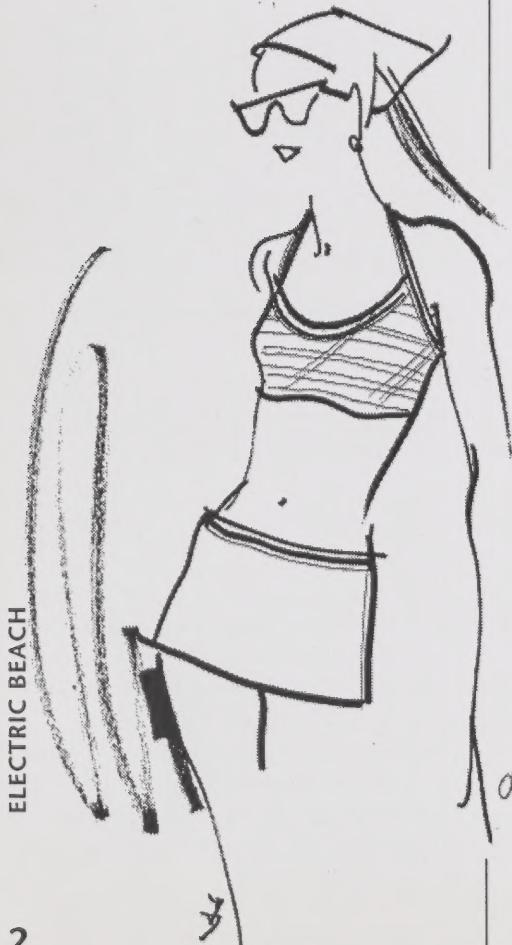
seaweed. Empire waistlines, tie-fronts and hip belts were important elements. Also noteworthy were the newly structured separates like the white coated cotton, origami-like side-wrap skirt; the organza and cotton plisse butterfly blouse; the side-wrap cotton top; and apron pleat-front ball skirt. **KENTH ANDERSSON** went the structured route with a streamlined collection in pristine white, accented with sky blue. Andersson's tailoring skills

were reflected in an architecturally cut jacket in silk/wool with angled seaming and slit sleeves. This was shown atop a black Thai silk pin tuck skirt. His blue organza 3/4 sleeved bike jacket looked fresh over a matching flip skirt. Blue pearl stitching edged the slashed blouson back of Andersson's long, 3-ply white silk georgette column with flared hem. With a color palette

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# SWIM LESSONS - Cruise 2000 Swimwear

**E**verybody into the pool! That's the message designers are getting across for Cruise 2000. Styling is sleek and streamlined with an emphasis on textures, matte and shine finishes, and contrasting piping. Color pops with yellow and, to a lesser extent, the blues and greens. Splashy tropical florals and Gucci inspired prints are everywhere. Stripes, color blocking, and animal patterns also crop up. In addition to sunny brights, there are frosted pastels, and sophisticated neutrals like olive, khaki and silvery gray rounding out the color story. The tankini suit continues to dominate the market, with bandeau and triangle bra two-piece suits also featured. In one-piece styles, the high neck tank continues, but the newest silhouettes play up a lower square neckline. The overall look is one of streamlined chic. Cover-ups run the gamut from board shorts and miniskirts for the junior consumer, to airy sarongs and streamlined tank dresses for the sophisticated woman.



Young and sporty is the direction at **NAUTICA**. The outlined Tactel nylon/spandex lingerie maillot, and the sport bra with scoop pant styles (both in yellow with navy/yellow trim) set the tone. Nautica has a great idea in the reversible stripe, bound bandeau and hipster bottom two-piece suit offered in red or royal. Twin stripe navy "Shirting" looks unexpectedly fresh in a scoop back, soft cup camisole/scoop pant; while Nautica's khaki/navy woven plaid looks terrific in a triangle bra/string bikini. Active inspired swimwear is **JAG's** direction. Tops are the sky blue "Mai Tai" floral tankini and a "White Water Hibiscus" two-piece suit in olive, with soft cup bandeau and scoop pant. More girlie is their "Frosted Poorboy" ribbed tankini and lingerie suit in seafoam, sky, lilac or rose. Key looks at **LA BLANCA** include the sweater rib cropped tank two-piece suit in black/putty, accented with an active inspired web belt; the clean high neck tank in white and black engineered yarn dyed stripes, accented with side snap details; and a layered mesh over tricot tankini in orange/persimmon. Sportswear designer, **SUSANNA MONACO** segues into swimwear design with a supplex capsule collection in solid shades. The interesting palette comprises such shades as avocado, citrus, salsa, and Havana. Sold separately, the collection includes a sexy triangle top, cross back string top, and handkerchief halter tie top. Bottoms to mix/match are a string bikini, dip-front boy shorts and a handkerchief tie pant. A micro mini serves as a cover-up.

**ELECTRIC BEACH** adds a sophisticated twist to their active inspired "Out of Bounds" group in nylon/polyester/spandex with a raw silk-like texture. Best looking is the sport bra two-piece suit, in sand with contrast binding in white/black. Another hot group is the "Sorbet Stripe" in mint or yellow. Outstanding here is the three-piece set that includes a halter bra and hip-hugger trunk, plus a solid low rider miniskirt with contrast piping. "Suburban Luau" combines sporty styling with a feminine red/white floral print. Matching board shorts work nicely over the triangle bikini, edged with



white trim. At newcomer **ECRIN SWIMWEAR**, the focus is on femininity. Standouts include a "Watermark" floral tank and two-piece bandeau bikini, and a sunny yellow vine print tankini with matching diaphanous drawstring pants. More sophisticated is Ecrin's triangle bikini in a banana and tan orchid print, and the underwire maillot in a voluptuous yellow rose print on brick ground. At **BEACH BAY**, the emphasis is on lingerie looks, prints and vivid colors. Key styles are the "Misty Rose," skirted halter two-piece in aqua; the diagonal "Water Stripe" high neck tank; and the "Sea Breeze" multi-floral tankini, with white binding and straps. Tummy control is a key feature on many of **JANTZEN's** suits. It's especially effective in a keyhole back lingerie maillot in a lime or periwinkle floral, and their sleek silver high neck maillot with portrait back. Gucci inspires a black multi-floral print that works best in Jantzen's tankini with solid black trunk. The matching printed A-line slit miniskirt makes a pretty cover-up. At **JANTZEN SPORT**, the velcro closed nylon wrap skirt and cargo shorts, in sand or olive, work well over a microfiber tankini with contrast color seaming. **BAJA**

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opened his show with a red, yellow, green, blue, and white banded strapless column dress cut high on the leg, defining the phrase "modern and sexy." Pants looked great too — our favorite was a bright, large scale, chartreuse and fuchsia print silk pant worn under a fuchsia sequined bandeau and topped by a little cashmere cardigan worn over the shoulders. Hooded cashmere sweatshirts worked well with either pants or skirts. Blass eased effortlessly into evening with a fuchsia bugle beaded skirt under a short sleeved ribbed turtleneck. An evening highlight was the white silk crepe slip with charming floral beaded straps.

**CAROLINA HERRERA** gets better with every passing season! She put a ban on black for Spring and grounded strong color with shades of white and tan. Leathers, as well as perfect slimmed hipped pants, continued to be Herrera's forte. There was a lime suede shirt with an optic white cotton skirt, and a pale pink asymmetrical halter top worn with a tan patent leather skirt. Flounce also flourished. A favorite in this group was the V-neck cocktail dress in pale pink crepe de chine. Herrera's bohemian woman dresses in the earth-toned camisole and pink and tan Moroccan embroidered knee length skirt for day; and for evening, an embroidered blue Moroccan bustier and shell colored crepe de chine, flounce hem skirt. Large scale diamond butterfly pins were used to secure some of the evening gowns. Kudos go to hair stylist Serge Normant for the long flowing hair that complemented this season's bohemian flavored clothing.

**CALVIN KLEIN** remained true to the clean simple shapes that are his signature. While working with a much quieter color palette than the majority of his peers, he nevertheless had a solid showing of beautifully cut clothing that one would want to keep long after the season is over. There were decorative touches rendered with a very light hand: the subtlest of beading, and a continued

use of innovative fabric technique, displayed with an aluminum paper cotton stretch shirt and pants. For day, there were dropped waist and mid-calf coats and dresses, and some great safari dresses. Fabrics were muted and menswear oriented. Optic white counted as a color amidst the many shades of beige that dominated. Klein continued to experiment with the layering of multiple color combinations by mixing a neutral with some standout brights, such as the beautiful cerulean blue beaded double layered camisole and nylon voile skirt ensemble. Due to its limited use one noticed and appreciated color more than if he had attempted to dazzle with a rainbow's worth. Shoulder bags were worn close to the torso and had retro metal clasp closures. His little white rectangular shoulder bag is just right for Spring. Klein used the show to relaunch his makeup line that has been on the market for over a decade. The soft makeup shades complemented the tan and white toned collection.

**REBECCA TAYLOR'S** show combined enough of the right ingredients to add up to a collection that could only be described as sweetly girlie girl: hair casually pulled off the face, sparkle, ribbon trim detail and flip flop shoes for feet too tired for grown-up stilettos. Taylor participated in the color movement using the pastel "porange" (think Good Humor creamsicle bar) for a number of pieces, particularly a gauze embroidered wrap with sparkle detail. She eliminated the danger of falling into saccharine sweetness by adding some edge to the line with great leather jeans and knee high boots in cognac. Rebecca Taylor is not for the bashful girl: sheerness was the order of the day in mostly knee high "going to the disco" ensembles that were in keeping with her 70's disco soundtrack.

**BADGLEY MISHKA** showed some pretty "prom" dresses in Spring green and daffodil yellow. The pair had plenty of color and separates to offer as well as their one-of-a-kind dresses. Many of the strongest pieces were those in vivid brights: a tur-

quoise sequinned dress with a flutter hem falling below-the-knee; and a sprinkle beaded fuchsia jacket over a berry cashmere tube and white shantung pant. There were also some pretty pastels. An outstanding look was an open-backed salmon and georgette gown embroidered with diamonds trimming the waist and accessorized with real diamonds by Fred Leighton. Another winner was the raspberry beaded cap-sleeve top and fuchsia satin dance skirt. Lending a nice touch of embellishment to the collection were Leighton's diamond bows and starburst pins, the house's small precious looking handbags, and stilettos with jeweled buckles. The eyelash dresses at the finale were good looking renditions

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# QUALITY - A Hallmark Of European Design

The Europeans excel in their craft due in part to their painstaking attention to the details that go into making a truly special garment. Superior fabrics and beautiful finishing are another hallmark of the European collections. This season the standout details include: ruffles, unusual closures, trims, beading and paillettes. Great knits, fantastic color palettes, sumptuous leathers and unusual fabric treatments add excitement to classic shapes and impeccable tailoring.

## MISSONI

Sexy but never without a sophisticated edge, Missoni collections have always been about fluid seasonless clothing that brings to mind images of a jet set lifestyle. Missoni is as at home in St. Tropez as in Rio de Janeiro or South Beach. For those who dare to bare some skin, there are head-to-toe Missoni ensembles and shocking yellow and orange boy-cut cashmere bikinis and pastel Lurex hot pants. For the more reserved, a piece here and there adds a touch of European glamour to one's wardrobe. Missoni has always produced garments in a spectrum as varied as the rainbow and keeps refining each collection incorporating some of the season's trends, such as well-placed paillettes and '70s Saint Laurent-inspired ruffle treatments. Of special note is a top with a large shoulder bow, in soft sunrise tones of pink, olive and gold. Short sexy and fitted lengths are shown, as well as knee length and long. A terrific long outfit is the elbow length tangerine knit scoop top with ruffles across the front embellished with a light sprinkling of paillettes, worn with a long powder pink Lurex skirt. Other great cashmere pieces included vivid orange cashmere halter tops to wear with either long skirts or hot pants. (Contact: Barbara Parisotto: 212-319-1888).

## RENE LEZARD

As are many European collections, this one is huge and boasts six deliveries. It covers a wide range of colors and fabrics from lightweight wool with subtle metallic finish to bolder aluminum-look pieces, such as a sleeveless top with some clear plastic shoulder straps to wear with a matching knee length skirt for the more fashion forward customer. Glossy with a waxed finish from the Cerruti mills are the silk boat neck tops in a lemon lime color. There is also a gorgeous antiqued leather skirt in army green, and a long beautifully cut pea green suede shirt/jacket. Lezard has a large group of sexy racer back halter tops to go with pants and skirts, and for a beach holiday there's a pretty Hawaiian Tropic pink, green, and burgundy cotton shirt to wear with some crisp white pants. Contact: Hermine Riegerl, 212-753-7363 or Jonathan Shows, LaForce & Stevens, 212-242-9353).

TUFI DUEK



## RENA LANGE

Rena Lange's collection boasts rack upon rack of impeccably designed clothing that is just right for her smartly dressed, well-heeled clientele. Wonderfully placed details add interest to the otherwise classic shapes, and some of the finest leathers are used to create beautiful and sophisticated pieces: a shiny black leather jacket with a ruffled leather collar and a ruffle at the wrist that could be worn with a zebra print skirt or tailored black trouser. Lange provides a considerable selection in black in recognition of her customers demand for it, despite fashion dictates. Great for lounging was an easy long sleeved black jersey top, with ruching on the sides, over a matching long skirt. Classic Lange was a long sleeved black dress with crisp white collar. For a suit and some color, the lollipop orange shantung pantsuit has a skinny leg and tiny self-buttons. In the knit group, Lange had an avocado green cardigan, finished with avocado silk trim along the hem and sleeve, with aqua colored paillettes in a repeating diamond pattern. The cocktail and eveningwear are both outstanding, especially those designs made of silk dupioni and pink duchesse satin. For that Millennium party or an equally special occasion, there is a beautiful pink duchesse satin gown and matching wrap. (Contact: Hedy Gold, 212-262-8065)

## TUFI DUEK

Billed as the "Calvin Klein of Brazil," Duek's clothes live up to the steady influx of press and celebrity attention they have recently garnered in publications such as *InStyle Magazine*. Duek certainly has plenty of clean shapes, and luscious leathers to choose from in both neutrals and eye-popping colors, but he shows his fun side with some adorable Rio

# NAILS

Company	Product	Packaging	Remarks	Price	Prestige or Mass - score
VERSACE	Finish Nail lacquer	great, lacquer bottle looks as if its resting on a pedestal	Great range of colors from total buff/natural to sharp brights. long-lasting, no chipping	\$15 0.34 oz	P 5
ALCHEMY (by Bigelow)	Nail Polish - "rhubarb"	Tall bottle with modern matte chrome top	Trendy color selection: from classic "oats" to fashion colors - "valerian" and "rhubarb (purple family) Very shiny finish.	\$14 0.5 oz	P 4
ESTEE LAUDER	Quick Finish Nail Lacquer - "Sand Dune"	Cute little bottle with girlie gold cap	Pale pretty neutrals Lauder does so well. Use 2 coats, minimum	\$6	P 4
BATH & BODY WORKS	Beautiful by Nature On-Hand Nail Color in "Pearl"	Pretty, matte chrome top decorated w/ flowers	Trendy pale lavender w/ lots of sparkle, dries very quickly	\$4.50 - 0.5 oz	M 4
ORLY	Salon Nails Nail color - "I will"	Mass market, shiny chrome top	Vibrant metallic colors for the young and funky		M 3

# Fall '99 Beauty Beat - Topping the Charts

## CHART SCORE KEY

- 1 = Poor
- 2 = OK
- 3 = Good
- 4 = Excellent
- 5 = Superb/Outstanding
- \* = Best New Product

# BRONZERS/ CHEEKS

## CHART SCORE KEY

- 1 = Poor
- 2 = OK
- 3 = Good
- 4 = Excellent
- 5 = Superb/Outstanding
- \* = Best New Product

Company	Product	Packaging	Remarks	Price	Prestige or Mass, Score
ORIGINS	Blush - "firelight"	sleek	Gives you a sunburnt glow		P 3
PRESCRIPTIVES	*Sunsheen Bronzing Gel	Graphic taupe & grey box	For a sun kissed glow, can be layered for deeper color, sparkle too - outstanding!	\$ 25 for 1 fl. oz	P 5
COLORWORKS (By Circle of Beauty, Sears)	Blush lightly -bronzing powder in "Lightly Bronze .007"	Sleek forest green compact w/ convenient long mirror	Delivers healthy bronze glow, stays-on, no caking		M 5
MAKE UP FOREVER	Star Powder -	Clean - this is about what's inside	Fabulous! Sparkly powder for eyes, cheeks, even lips when used w/ gloss		P 5
VERSACE	*Shining Blush	Arresting "gotta-have-it" platinum look case	Soft color that goes on perfectly and lasts		P 5
CLINIQUE	Blushing Bronze Doubles (oil free)	NC - no comments	One is a soft neutral blush, other is a shimmery bronzer. Great for transition in/out of summer		P 4

# LIPS

Company	Product	Packaging	Remarks	Price	Prestige/Mass: Score
CLINIQUE	Chubby Stick	love the gleaming silver	smooth & long-lasting, natural enhancement		P4+
VERSACE	platinum coll.	indulgent, over the top, roccoco	very moist, color saturated, stays on	for those who like color	P 4
PRESCRIPTIVES	lipgloss - "serendipity"	Modern matte silver wand	very thick, more pigmented than it looks. For those who want definite color in a gloss.		P3+
LAURA MERCIER	*lip glace (lip gloss)	simple & attractive	Emollient, but not gloppy, looks great, flattering color	\$18 for 0.2 fl. oz.	P 5
ESTEE LAUDER	*lip blush SPF 15 - "copper sun"	attractive accordian gold casing	Smooth & emollient, great nude shimmer - a great summer color	\$15	P5
CLINIQUE	Liquid Lipstick SPF 15	Long sleek gloss w/ wand	Very pale shimmery super-pale color		P 4
ORIGINS	Lip Gloss in "retrogrape"	Super-long skinny tube	Color looks goth-like in tube - surprise, applies to a pale pretty shine		
ALCHEMY (by Bigelow)	lipstick - "pennyroyal"	clean black & silver tube	very matte & pigmented, wears well, surprisingly moist	\$16.50	P4

## CHART SCORE KEY

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# EYES

Company	Product	Packaging	Remarks	Price	Prestige/Mass: Score
VERSACE	Eyeshadow trio v2050	liked the "platinum" packaging, nicely sized to fit into any purse	Color looks good initially but very bright once applied	\$30 - compact includes sable brush and flip-top mirror	P 3+
BOBBI BROWN	*Shimmer eyeshadow in "Plum"	okay, simple	Goes on beautifully, can layer it to add intensity but still looks natural, stays put		P 5
BOBBI BROWN	Natural Brown shaper - "blonde"	no-fuss, clean	Neat concept, mascara wand helps to effectively draw a line. Feels strange going-on, but does the job		P 4+
ORIGINS	"Tye Dye" eyeshadow	plain	Smooth application		M?4
CLINIQUE	Quick Eyes eye powder eye pencil in "deep mauve" - use their lipglosses for that "Austin Powers" babe look	graphic silver pencil with one tip to smudge	New & improved. Goes on smoothly, smudge-proof. A life-saver if you need hypo-allergenic eye makeup		P 5
ORIGINS	Lash Liner in "Olive Kohl"	For better control, pencil could be loner	Smooth quick application, pretty color		P 5

## CHART SCORE KEY

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limited to lagoon, blue, teak and white, **RANDOLPH DUKE** produced a superb collection that tweaked the classic nautical look, then added a dash of India and Hollywood razzle dazzle to the mix. Everything worked — from his jewel-buttoned sharkskin sailor skirts worn with cashmere sweaters or "deck" jackets, to the striped balmaccaan over cashmere tube and long skirt. Duke's gorgeous paillette gowns in white, sand, lagoon and sea storm had red carpet gala written all over them as did his beaded pants worn with either a cashmere turtle-neck or midriff baring drawstring shirt in tissue lamé.

Neither rain nor sleet nor hurricane Floyd could stop the "ladies" from attending **BILL BLASS'** show, and he delivered the goods in a youthful, spirited collection. His gals want color, and Blass accommodated them with a pale blue embroidered twin set and skirt, and a terrific pink cashmere hooded jacket over black beaded top and ivory skirt. Blass reinterpreted the classic Wasp look for late day by tossing sweater sets

over bugle beaded skirts and pants in fuchsia, neon green and pale blue. At **CHRISTINA PERRIN**, unusual fabric combinations were a focal point of her collection. Sometimes they worked, sometimes they didn't. She pulled it off with her black leather scuba jacket and cellophane embroidered silk chiffon skirt.

Another good idea was the strapless ombre leather gown in cobalt, with its deep slit revealing a hot pink silk lining as the wearer moved. Perrin's hot pink ombre organza laser-cut strapless gown and her topaz Swarovski crystal mesh "tuxedo" were also striking. At **ELLEN TRACY**, designer Linda Allard started off on a high note with khaki linen and red stretch silk separates, and moved on to splashes of color with the shimmering wisteria plaited linen jacket over celadon stretch cotton crop trousers and white tee, and her silk gingham anorak in tangerine over white linen pants. After dark there were beaded separates and dresses in tangerine, lilac, cherry and pink paired with tops in white paper thin silk or knit.

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ELLEN TRACY

**BLUE** is also inspired by Gucci, which is apparent in their "Glamour Girl" group that sizzles in pink. Newest looking is a two-piece crop top with skirted pant. Print meets piqué texture in the "Classic Hibiscus" soft cup bandeau and side-tie scoop pant in a wonderful shade of mango.

**ESPRIT** combines fabulous prints with key bodies for Cruise. Winners include a "Bandau Daisy" tankini in cranberry or sky nylon/Lycra crepe, and a "Passion Flower" underwire two-piece suit in black with scoop pant. Banded solids look equally strong, particularly in Esprit's mix/match group in neutral shades like olive. The contrast banded tube tankini can pair with either surf or scoop pants or a full French-cut bottom. "South Beach Solid" features suits in pink, blue or lime with reversible tops. Especially outstanding is the tube tankini with surf pant. Toned and sexy is the woman wearing **FREE BY GOTTEX**.

Designed to move with the body, yet stand out from the crowd, is a pure white underwire bikini and a sleek cobalt tank with strategically placed geometric side cutouts. Softer is Free's pretty pink adjustable triangle bikini sprinkled with clear sequins. **GOTTEX** tones down the glitz this season in favor of supple angles and shapes, and a palette inspired by the planet. Firey red, orange and magenta blend together in a square neck tank bisected with a black stripe at the waist. A clay colored two-piece underwire suit, banded in black, is streaked with jagged black lines forming a pattern reminiscent of a desert landscape. For the young contemporary woman there's the microfiber **SEAMLESS COLLECTION BY CHRISTINA**. One and two-piece suits come in delicious shades of pistachio, blue and pink, as well as classic black. More sophisticated is "Vineyard Floral," a cross dye group in gray, and the pin tucked "Strata" range in black, white or blue. The two-piece suit and matching tank are simple perfection! Après swim there's a matching long

sheer skirt with wide pin tuck hip band. Christina holds the exclusive license for the **AQUA BRA**. This division features swimwear with liquid push-up pads. The collection can be bought either as separates or together, with tankinis a hot selling style. At **BARE ASSETS**, bandeaus, tankinis, boy shorts and three-piece suits are driving the business. Standouts are the two-piece hipster suit in lavender with mint piping from the "Frosted Butterfly" group; the '60s-inspired hot pink psychedelic floral tankini from the "Hip Hop" range; and the innovative three-piece "Jelly Bean Blossoms" bikini with coordinating white tank top. The pink floral print across the front picks up the all-over floral of the swimsuit. Bare Assets also shows some sophisticated solids like the ribbed raspberry underwire tankini from the "Smoke and Mirrors" group, and a drawstring bandeau tankini in polyester/Lurex/Lycra from their blue "Disco Denim" range.

of the modern day flapper dress, particularly one in pink lace and georgette.

**At MARC JACOBS** it was jeans, jeans, jeans in all shades of blue, olive, camel, Nantucket red, celadon and more. Jeans and cashmere worked well together, particularly a "fancy t-shirt" in pale pink spiced up with bike jeans and a white cowboy hat. Although the jeans and cashmere combinations looked good, one of the show's outstanding outfits was the "two-blue" long sleeved denim shirt over a tuxedo bellbottom embroidered with western touches, and cut with that all-American '70s twist that Jacobs does so well. Denim carried through in the evening portion of the show blending with satin, lending the fabric a sleek sheen. The evening group was decorated with giant paillettes that gave it a bohemian flavor. There was a cotton cream net top worn with a pair of striped tonic flood pants, and a toast colored dress also embellished with giant paillettes.

**MATT NYE** has started to carve out a name for himself on the strength of his collection's clean lines and youthful sporty look. Nye may have taken a page from Ralph Lauren's preppy Polo classics circa '70s & '80s:



BADGLEY MISCHKA  
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he showed tape sweaters, easy pants and Elsa Peretti jewelry. Adorable Burberry fisherman hats contributed to the look. Signature Nye was a red and white "red cross" sweater worn with some relaxed lime green pants.

For his Spring collection entitled "Palm Bitch," **MICHAEL KORS** crossed Lily Pulitzer circa 1970's with vintage Pucci, and added a little bit of zebra for good measure. From start to finish, the show was a fun-in-the-sun poolside jaunt. A legion of come-hither beauties sauntered down the runway in casual cabana style attire. Spring 2000 was chock full of preppy but unquestionably sexy glamour — acres of leg and skin left exposed and a generous use of bright luxurious fabrics. There were gorgeous hand knit pistachio and lemon cropped cable sweaters, fun head scarves, halter tops, short skirts, skinny jeans, and high heels. Bright colors and patterns contrasted well with his flesh toned "toast" pieces, particularly a pant and shirt ensemble in head-to-toe "toast." The biggest surprise was the use of jewelry, appearing on Kors' runway for the first time in years.

## PART II: Men's Spring 2000 Designer Focus

**F**or the most part, the New York Men's Spring 2000 fashion shows did not reveal any startling developments in color, cut or trend. There were some notable exceptions: Marc Jacobs, Jason Bunin, Nautica, and Cynthia Rowley. We have also included interviews with hair and make-up stylists, Marc Leyland (for Jason Bunin) and Thomas Praino of Garren NY (for Marc Jacobs).

**MARC JACOBS** presented simple, practical clothes with some use of color in shades of blue and khaki. The twist came through his collaboration with Tim Burton, creator of



JASON BUNIN

"Stain Boy," a bizarre anti-hero who popped up on logo tees — a welcome change from the grad student fare of rock group or "University X" tees. In fact, the entire collection had a grad student flavor, but this student will be sexy and have an innate sense of style.

Tees were fitted, pants fuller, and denim and leather rendered in more than their respective dark blue and chocolate brown fabrications. Jacobs avoided the season's current fascination with thin-as-paper coated cotton fabrics for coats and jackets. Instead, he offered robust pieces that looked as if they would stand up to inclement weather. There was a beautiful coat in a cream twill and an olive canvas parka that had some substance to it. There were denim jackets and shirts in khaki colors, stripes and Nantucket Red, as well as worn looking leather pieces in oxblood and mustard, and a fabulous green jacket with a "Stain boy" tee and corduroys.

Although casual is the dominating note for Spring at Jacobs, there were some elegant looks to fall-back-on for occasion dressing. For dinner, there was a camel V-neck cashmere sweater worn over a striped shirt and a chambray pant. For situations

Once again, **ANNA SUI** mined the past for inspiration and came up with a collection combining '70s haute bohemian gypsy looks with echoes of the romantic 18th century French court. And guess what? It worked. Sui went pretty with mixes like a lavender tulle cardigan and peach tulle tank with a tiered paisley chiffon skirt, or a celadon embroidered knit top paired with a mixed print tiered skirt in sage chiffon. Sui's followers will covet her perfectly cut, embroidered silk dupioni jackets in aqua, beige and iridescent blue/orange, shown with silk taffeta or chiffon skirts. Edgy urban chic is **REBECCA DANENBERG's** forte. This season she softened the mood somewhat, which was evident in perfectly cut leathers in muted shades of buff, and pink pearl. Best — the pink gauze turtleneck with pearl leather boot-cut pants. Danenberg also had a great idea. She tweaked the (now ubiquitous) low rise skirt by adding a sexy hip slit that revealed a flash of skin as the model walked. It was shown in ivory and blush with sexy halter tops in solid orchid or mosaic printed chiffon. **ALEXANDRA LIND** devoted a major portion of her collection to skin baring evening clothes. Her best idea married a turquoise beaded and sequined chiffon Empire top with open sides with a double layered bias chiffon

knee length skirt. Also aimed at the young social set was a white bias-cut silk dress with ruffled shoulder straps; a bateau neck A-line dress with side pleats, in silver zibeline; and a sequined strapless column in matte gold.

**LOTTA** showed one of the prettiest collections, merging Mediterranean and Indian references with ultra feminine silhouettes in vivid colors. She started off simply with a group in cool white cotton gauze and eyelet, then let loose with lace trimmed and sequined bias slip dresses in purple and powder blue. A floral dress in orange and pink was hand embroidered and painted, as was a blue strapless number. She also paired beaded and embroidered pants and handkerchief skirts with contrasting brightly colored cotton tanks or bandanna tops. While **DIANE von FURSTENBERG's** name is synonymous with the sexy wrap dress (and there were some great variations), what intrigued most were her separates. These were simple yet sexy. Standouts included a reef orange matte jersey halter with a ruffled silk georgette skirt in a blue underwater print, an iris silk knit turtleneck with embroidered lotus flower over a bias chiffon skirt in a lily pad print; and the copper rayon knit cardigan, belted over a long bias skirt in a beaded patchwork georgette. Newcomer **TERESA CANDELA** made an impressive debut with a sporty, elegant collection in refresh-

DIANE VON FURSTENBERG



ingly offbeat colors. Noteworthy was a double inverted pleat denim skirt and sleeveless sweater in teal/lime. Also interesting were the wide trousers paired with a "flame" intarsia sweater in grape/coral, the silicone spaghetti strapped dress in moss green, and Candela's perfectly cut organza hipster pants offset by a relaxed crop sweater in teal/lime.

requiring a suit, Jacobs proposes a French Blue tonik stripe worn with a button-down shirt over a tee.

**JASON BUNIN'S** collection looked to the macho unabashed Euro-style playboy. Color was key at Bunin. He came through with some delicious pastel colors that we haven't seen in awhile. Every piece he cut in a punchy pistachio — from a pair of suede pants to a cotton oxford to a lambskin pea-coat looked great. Prints were also key, particularly a fun orange paisley "playboy" print and a lemon, brown, pink and white

"sunset stripe" that featured prominently in his scantily fitting swimwear. Not surprisingly, trousers were fitted through the crotch, hip and buttocks. Although it is only Mr. Bunin's second season showing formally, he has already developed a signature look. The guys wore their button-downs, tanks, and campshirts tight. Bunin also gave a nod to the sheer fabric treatments of the season with a sheer white bubble wrap cotton button-down shirt.

**NAUTICA'S** Spring had an air of a casual weekend with an urban slant. Here too were influences from the Far East successfully combining with

tech fabrics. The colors, particularly orange and ochre red, and clean shapes in the "Indochine" segment rendered this David Chu's strongest showing to date. The first two segments: "Sailing" and "Campus" were classic Nautica. A standout was a gray cotton/nylon "flight suit," a great alternative to a sweatshirt. Chu made strides in his "Indochine" segment, featuring clean clothing imbued with the "relaxed elegance of the tropics." A white linen mesh long sleeved shirt that combined with a polyurethane coated tan pant perfectly illustrated

the mood. Another strong ensemble was the indigo linen/nylon coat worn over a white linen open weave shirt and white cotton polyurethane coated pants. Chu saved the best for last — batik cotton short sleeved shirts in deep red leaf prints worn with relaxed white or khaki pants.

**CYNTHIA ROWLEY's** colors, prints, and sense of fun displayed her talents that shone in this whimsical collection. Rowley again showed atop a NYC roof using the perimeter of its swimming pool as her runway. She got her audience in the mood with a pre-show synchronized swim performance set to the theme of Ravel's Bolero. The show itself evoked a taste of the good life poolside at a Las Vegas hotel: One half expected to see Elvis. The designer plunged enthusiastically into color, with oranges, yellows, red and avocado dominating her palette. We loved the burgundy camp shirt with silver glitter flowers, worn with a slouchy brown herringbone hipster pant; and the long sleeved, sheer zebra print shirt, worn with a pair of butter colored skinny leather jeans. Pants were strong and came in all shapes and colors. Best looks were the neutral gray flared cropped pants and the wild green floral clam diggers. Another outstanding piece was the white Elvis-style ruffle-front shirt. For a more muted look, there was a color block shirt in café au lait and chocolate brown worn with some of her cropped flare pants. As a finale, she showed a terrific his and her drinks-by-the pool look: For her, there was the Mexican-inspired caftan in white with some hand embroidery around a plunging V-neck; for him, a roomy white suit to match.

"QUALITY..." continued from page 4

beach prints. There are some feminine touches as well as a black chiffon group with just enough flounce to add interest without becoming fussy. We loved the black knee length skirt with one row of ruffles on the side. There's also a medium dark denim group that

## GROOMING — HAIR AND MAKEUP

**JASON BUNIN:** Hair and Makeup Artist, Marc Leyland (917-726-7089)

Mr. Bunin's men, as do his clothes have a signature look. The men all had amazing physiques, but the overall look was in no way overdone. Grooming artist, Marc Leyland agrees: "Jason really honed his style in this show which inspired me for the grooming. The collection reminded me of the '50s when men had hair that was very short in the back and sides, cut by the barber with the top slicked back." To achieve this look, he cleaned up the hair at the ears and at the back of the neck. For those who already had very short hair, Leyland used Murray's Pomade and John Frieda Shaping Balm for a very slick look. The look was strongly masculine. No shiny cheeks or rouged lips allowed. He strove for a very fresh and natural lightly tanned look for Spring. Other products used were: Make Up For Ever clear mascara that separates and combs without the use of color, and their colorless brow mascara that lends a slight bit of color to a very light brow; and Kiehl's clear lip balm and Ultra Moisturizing Lotion.

**MARC JACOBS:** Hair and Makeup Artist, Thom Priano, Garren NY, 212-684-5062.

Thom Priano, creative Director of Garren NY was behind the casual, sexy look at Marc Jacobs. He achieved this by working with, rather than fighting, the model's hair. The theme he was striving for? Sexy bed hair! The technique he used was to apply Garren NY conditioning

includes a polished looking jacket and a classic A-line skirt with side slits, as well as the perfect chino pant. Duek's accessories are adorable as well as chic: little fabric shoulder bags in denim enhanced with a smattering of beading, perforated leathers and an L.L. Bean inspired tote. (Contact: Kristin McMullen, Keri Levitt PR, 212-754-1400

styling cream to tossed damp hair. He left the blow dryer at the salon for this no fuss grooming. As for makeup, the look was natural. All that was needed was a little something to touch up blemishes. Make up Forever Pan stick provided easy to apply coverage in a sleek black octagonal case.

## SPECIAL MENTION

New this season is Taba-Rome Fragrance, another home run from the House of Creed. The venerable French perfumery is in sync with the loosening up that has pervaded all areas of life as the '90s come to an end: the cigar bar trend, the revival of Cuba, and the re-emergence of the Latin beat as evinced by the popularity of performers such as Ricky Martin. Taba-Rome gives off a masculine scent that is a mixture of tobacco leaves, green tea, ginger and bergamot. A wonderful combination with the colorful New York runway looks of Cynthia Rowley and Jason Bunin

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